

DESCRIPTIONInhibitors of Serine Protease Activity of Matriptase or  
MTSP1Cross Reference to Related Applications

5 This application is a continuation-in-part of PCT Application No. PCT/US01/28137 filed September 7, 2001 which designates the United States of America, which is a continuation-in-part of United States Serial No. 09,675,986, *Now U.S. Patent No. 6,797,504*, filed September 8, 2000, the disclosures of which are  
10 incorporated herein by reference.

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Field Of The Invention

The present invention is directed to methods of reducing tumor progression and/or metastasis. Matriptase and MTSP1 are serine proteases reported to be expressed in high levels in certain cancer cell lines.

According to one aspect, the present invention provides compounds which bind to the serine protease domain and are active as selective inhibitors of the serine protease activity of matriptase or MTSP1. These inhibitors can be used to inhibit the serine protease activity of matriptase or MTSP1 and thereby reduce harmful effects of its over-expression. Another aspect of the present invention is directed to the use of compounds that bind to the serine protease domain and selectively inhibit the serine protease activity of matriptase or MTSP1; such compounds may be used in the prevention and treatment of cancerous conditions and which decrease the growth of cancerous tumors and retard metastasis.